



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Web Address:-
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Heart of England

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March 2017 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our speaker for March is Jo Hands from Wildlife Trusts and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust who will talk about "who we are and what we do. Information on some of our reserves; what can be found there and how it is managed. Details on our current campaigns".

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for April will be Brian Draper, back by popular demand & his subject this time is "Warwickshire Avon. A look at this Midland River from the Battlefield at Naseby to the Battlefield at Tewkesbury"

LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER

Anna Prosser from "Dogs for Good" was delighted to report that they raised £237.68 at the February meeting when she talked to about the charity.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Jayne Jones

Hello everyone. A warm welcome to our March monthly meeting. Hopefully Spring is just around the corner and we can spend more time outside walking, gardening etc. Do take a look at our notice board and table for lots of interesting information. There's the RHS Groups Guide for 2017 detailing visits to the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, Harlow Carr Garden to name a view.

The U3A Summer Schools brochure for 2017 is also there. There are some great courses being run - Garden History, Globalisation, Music before the Microchip, Singing for Pleasure are just a few of the courses on offer.

NEW MEMBERS MEETING

New members of the Heart of England U3A are invited to a special meeting on 30th March at the Methodist, in the Welcome Area. Refreshments will be served and you can talk to other new members, committee members, Group Leaders about anything to do with our U3A. Time will be 2.30-4.00pm. Contact is Cindy Willoughby tel:01789 509187; email: cwillo.es@gmail.com.

OUTINGS—SKITTLE EVENING

Coral Bradley

By popular request we are running a skittles evening again, this time in the summer to make it easier for finding the venue.

It will be on Friday 30 June 2017 starting at 7.30 at the Welford Bowls Club.

The costs will be available at the March meeting.

We need 25 people to make the evening a success, it is always fun and the food is delicious with plenty of it. Names taken from the March meeting.

COURSES ON-LINE-FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Robyn Nicoll



There is a vast list of courses available which may be found on the National U3A Web site. For a detailed list, you will need to access the Members' Area by creating a user name and password. **National Web site:** www.u3a.org.uk

There are also a large selection of courses offered by **U3A Online** from Australia described as "A Virtual University of the Third Age". Courses are offered for individual study and for groups.

(For an individual - \$25; For an Organisation - \$15.)

The topics include: World Affairs and History; Nature; Writing and Creativity; Lifestyle; Science. (See the notice board for a detailed list)

To find out more about these courses : www.u3aonline.org.au

A course from U3A Online is underway - "Property to Partner". See Jayne Jones or Sue Workman for details. More courses are in the pipeline. These courses are ideal for small study groups and are free to members. Details to follow.

NB The original Untutored Courses have been downloaded and saved so are available to members. A list of these courses may be found on the notice board.

Courses studied so far: Garden History, Art History, and China History Ancient and Modern and Russian History. A second Garden History Course is being studied.

For more details about courses, please contact Robyn (redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

[NB: Do look at the National Web site to see all the opportunities and information available to U3A members.]

CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

Next meeting: Friday afternoon, **3rd March, 2.30 to 4.30, in side room1**. Following a short session on language, David Ralph will be giving us a talk on Lady Fu Hao, one of the may wives of Emperor Wu Ding of the Shang Dynasty. She was also China's first female general.

Several of the group will be attending a matinee performance of "Snow in Midsummer" at the Swan Theatre on 15th March. This production is based on the classical Chinese drama by Guan Hanqing and will provide the group with an ideal discussion topic for the following get-together. Anyone who has seen this play would be most welcome to join us. Date to be decided.

Our get-togethers are informal and varied consisting of a short language/practical session led by Patricia Wy, followed by discussion of the chosen topic often accompanied by a photo presentation and concluding with "what the papers say".

If you would like to join us, please contact Robyn.

More information from Robyn Nicoll. redbird22@hotmail.co.uk or David Ralph. david.ralph1@icloud.com

ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP

Mavis Pickett



Report of the January 2017 Meeting

This month's meeting was prepared by Geoff Harrison and entitled "The Good Old Days" 78's Revived. He started off the afternoon with Bunk Johnson and "Darktown Strutters Ball". Then came a complete surprise when Geoff said he would be accompanying the next track on...'The Bones', now for me that conjured up a Fred Flintstone image of two huge dinosaur bones, but no, Geoff is far more sophisticated and brought forth a set of fine smooth, elegant wooden bones with which he proceeded to accompany Freddy Randall on "That's a Plenty". It was brilliant and the applause was loud enough to be heard at least on Bridge Street. After the excitement Geoff went on to present a programme of 24 tracks which was more than usual because of the limited playing time on each 78rpm disc. These included "The Original Dixieland One Step" with Carlo Krahmer on drums. An interesting point here, Carlo gave up being a musician and became founder of Eclipse Records without which there would have been no recording history of Modern Jazz in Britain from the 1940's to 1950's. After the

break we listened to Louis Armstrong, Wild Bills Stompers, Freddy Mirfield and quite a few more. What this programme has shown is if you look behind the names there are all sorts of interesting facts to be discovered, whilst personal knowledge is great as are books on jazz Wikipedia is a huge help to get started. (no I don't have shares in them). Thank you Geoff for a great afternoon and who knows other members might have a hidden talent (clog dancing anyone??) We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church Hall starting at 2pm.

ART APPRECIATION

Sylvia Kentish / Pam Collins



In February Phyl Collins gave us a presentation on stained glass.

BRIDGE GROUP

John Yoemans



We play in a relaxed atmosphere and are always keen to welcome new members with some experience of the game. If you would like to "try us out" please come as a guest so that you can decide if you would like to join the Group. We meet every Tuesday afternoon for a two and a half hour session starting at 2.00 pm in the Methodist Hall Side Room 1, next to the kitchen.

CARD MAKING

Carolyn Leach

At the February General Meeting the sale of our cards raised £50 which was sent to The Mayors Charity Account.



Next month we hope to do the same for Dogs For Good, inspired by our last speaker. Our next work-shop will be on March 31. New members welcome; call me for details.

CHINWAGS

Aline Cumming

We are still at Le Bistro Pierre where good food, chat and laughter are on the menu.



THE CHOIR

Dorothy

Jones

Stewart has given us new music which he has arranged.. Hopefully we will do justice to his arrangements.



We enjoy our Friday mornings and now have 70 members .We are planning a summer concert but haven't arranged the date.
Watch this Space.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



The February meeting is cancelled as I will be away but we meet again at Bridge Cottage on Monday 20th March at 2pm.

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



The course of 5 sessions is underway at the Parish Centre, 2.30 to 4.00 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays and we are covering topics for **tablets and laptops**.

Here are the dates for March - **8th and 22nd** .

Several members come to help the "students" and if you are able to offer some time to help during these afternoons it would be much appreciated. Please let Robyn know. (redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP

Robyn Nicoll for Tricia Callaghan



Our workshop on Thursday, 16th February, was led by Roma who demonstrated how to create a useful gift for visitors to your home. It is a bathroom kit, disguised as a handbag, containing sample sized accessories eg soap, toothbrush and paste, comb, shower cap etc, contained in a face cloth, wrapped in cellophane and tied with ribbon. Roma had prepared a small card to include in the kit which would raise a smile. Next workshop on **Thursday 16th March, 2pm to 4pm**, will be taking place at the Premier

Inn on Birmingham Road. This temporary venue has been arranged by Tricia with the help of her daughter who works at the Inn. The group will be donating our usual hiring fee to Great Ormond Street Hospital. The theme for the afternoon will be Easter.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Geoff Bridgewater



The task for February is 'Portraiture and People' and we will review the efforts at our March meeting. I suggested some possible portrait posing examples and my 'coy' expressions seemed to cause some hilarity - OK, I'm not George Clooney! Thanks to Jayne for the refreshments.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



We last met for lunch on the 7th February at the Red Lion. After a quick chat about Spain and how reasonable it is to live there, we ordered our meal. Lots of chat as usual, Trump, of course was first on the agenda ; Morris Dancers, their black faces have offended some people!!

Dolls for girls and guns for boys, as it used to be, however no more : we think.!

Should you be promoting yourself for a night hood? David Beckham was in the news!

Dinahs meet again for lunch Tuesday 7th March at the Red Lion 12 15pm.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



Almost before we were all seated we were off about Donald Trump and the report that he might be impeached. Not knowing 'The Law' we mostly felt that it was touch and go. He is doing what he promised, but many people felt that he was out of hand and should be damped down. His views on so many things are appalling and we hope that his misogyny will get young American women on the move. His environmental views will also impact on future generations, if allowed to stand. We then talked about wealthy people getting away with not paying fair taxes. Money being sent by charities abroad and not being monitored, so going into rich men's pockets. Then we touched on Brexit and it became warm, although not quite heated. I look forward to seeing you all on March 8th at the Windmill, when the starter for 10 will be 'Affordable Housing'.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



This month we had another go to show the film that failed in January and we were successful this time. We watched The Good, the Bad and the Ugly a 1966 spaghetti western. This was a long and often violent film with odd moments of humour. It wasn't to everyone's taste, but half of us stayed watching until the end. Critical reception of the film following its release was mixed, but it gained critical acclaim in later years and is now seen as a highly influential example of the Western film genre and one of the greatest films of all time.

Our aim for the group is to show films that are not on general release now – some oldies, some considered art or cult, some foreign films (with subtitles), some that are regarded as exceptional for the acting or production. We have space for some more members, so if you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mary or Mavis.

Our next meeting will be on March 14th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church.

GAMES GROUP—SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARDS

Sue Tringham



For the time being we will continue to meet at 2 Guild Cottages, Church Street, from 2 – 4pm on the 1st and 3rd Mondays. All welcome! March 6th and 20th.

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

Suzy Genge



We visited Elm Close Garden, Welford, in February, to see their snowdrops. It was a wonderful garden and our hosts, Mr and Mrs Dyer, were very knowledgeable about all their plants. There were many lovely flowers and shrubs with gorgeous scents. We also had coffee and cake, provided by the Red Cross, which warmed us up. The garden will be open in June as part of the National Garden Scheme when several gardens in Welford will be open. Our next meeting will be on March 14th with a visit to Fibrex Nurseries, Peabworth.

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Graham Michell



No meeting in February out of respect for one of our Group whose funeral took place on the day of our planned gathering.

Next meeting - Wed. March 15th.

Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre

Subject - My bucket list.

Introduction - All.

HISTORY GROUP

Jean Hicks



February's talk on Stereoscopic photography was given by Graham Wood.

The stereoscope recreates the illusion of depth by utilising the binocularity of human vision.

Stereoscopic views/pictures consist of two nearly twin photographs which are viewed side by side through a special lens arrangement - a stereoscope (invented by Brewster in 1850).

In the period between 1850 and 1930 their popularity soared and Queen Victoria was a big fan! All types of subject were covered such as portraits, local history, landscapes, war and disasters. In the 1950's the Viewmaster became a popular toy and by contrast, during World War II stereoscopic aerial photographs were used by troops in the field. The enjoyable afternoon ended with us being able to look at Graham's wonderful collection of stereocards and to actually view them through the stereoscopes

Next meeting: March 13th at 2pm

Speaker: Janet Anslow

Topic: Tollpuddle Martyrs

KEEP FIT GROUP

Mary Palmer



The Keep Fit Class is now full to capacity after a bit of a dip in numbers last year. We have a new instructor who keeps us active and we all think we feel much better for our efforts. A waiting list has now been started if anyone is interested. Please phone Mary Palmer on 204707.

PAINTING/DRAWING GROUP

Dorothy Jones



We now have a full group of 12 and we all enjoy our fortnightly meetings. Several new members have expressed an interest, Maybe someone would like to start a new group

PILATES GROUP - MONDAY



Weekly at St. Andrew's Parish Centre, Shotton, 12:15 to 1:15. For more information call Gill Ganner on 269657.

PILATES GROUP - WEDNESDAY



Weekly at St Andrew's Parish Centre, Shotton, 10.15 to 11.15. For more information call Sue Workman on 297061.

PLAY READING GROUP

Sylvia Crooks



We met on Thursday 16th February, 10.30 am for coffee; then read Act 11 scene1 of "Arcadia" by Tom Stoppard. Next get together will be on Thursday 16th March at 10.30 for coffee at Sylvia's.

READING GROUP—MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



No report this month

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



Whilst the library is closed we are choosing our own books. WE had an interesting selection of books this month. Janet chose THE DIARIES of RICHARD BURTON which we are all wanting to read. My daughter found a book in a charity shop DOROTHY'S DILEMMA. It was published in 1912. I am enjoying reading this novel and love the cover and thick paper pages!

READING GROUP—FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



We read Daughter of the House, the feelings about this book were very mixed. One person absolutely loved it while another absolutely hated it others fell somewhere in between. The story is about a girl who finds that she has the ability to talk to people who have died which she uses partly for good and partly for entertainment. She come from a strange family and is trying to make the case for women's independence. Overall the events were not really believable.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



An interesting meeting with the emphasis on older rock songs and particular the inspiration given by Professor Longhair in New Orleans to rock and jazz musicians.

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Edwin Lilly



At our February meeting, well attended as usual, Geoff Bridgewater gave a talk on his view of the Universe. Needless to say it was slightly unusual but he took us through the basic interpretation of the Big Bang Theory and the motions of the Earth, Moon, Sun and Galaxy. There is a fuller report in the Magazine.

Friday 10th March 2017 Talk "Say Cheese" by Ian.

Wednesday 5th April 2017 Visit to BBC studios at The Mailbox, Birmingham.

Wednesday 24th May 2017 Tour of BBC Studios in Birmingham. This trip is full and there is a waiting list.

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Brian Bradley



The next Sunday lunch is on the 5th. March 2017, and is at the Henley Golf Club. Names please to Brian Bradley on 01789 488551.

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Dorothy Jones



SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT MAY 24th 2-15pm. All the seats have been taken but see me if you wish to go on the reserve list.

We leave the Leisure Centre promptly at 12-15pm and pick up our Henley group en-route to Birmingham.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



On 18 March we go to Malvern to see "Nell Gwynn", there has been a huge response to this visit and I have had to get more tickets and bigger coach - all arranged. All tickets have been sold. We leave Henley at 12.00 and the leisure centre at 12.30.

I am now taking names for our next visit to Malvern which is 29 April 2017 to see "Fracked" with James Bolam & Anne Reid. The times for picking up the coach will be as usual. Cost available at the March meeting. For your diaries I have booked "The Play That Goes Wrong" at Malvern on 22 July 2017. This is a comedy that has got many awards and is about a group of amateurs attempting to put on a play.

U3A PIANO GROUP

Sylvia Crooks

This is a new group started by Margaret Dews in the Shottery U3A. The plan is to meet monthly, on the 4th Wednesday morning at 10.00am in the Methodist Church Side Room 1.

This is a support group for anyone who would like to play the piano better. We are currently seven: We talk about the music we are playing or would like to play. Also to encourage you to play in front of friends and family. If you have not played for several years here is an opportunity to start again: there is no pressure, it is up to you, what you would like to get out of joining our small group. We can all learn a lot from one another, after all: This is for Fun.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 8th March at 10.00 a.m. and start from Clifford Chambers Church. We can park on the roadside by the church. This is just under five miles walk a little muddy but we hope it will dry out before the date. The Walk will be led by Sandy.

I recommend good walking shoes or boots and bring a drink along with you.

WHAT'S ON – MONTHLY MEETINGS AT STRATFORD, SHOTTERY, DENE VALLEY AND ALCESTER U3AS.

Stratford - No meeting advertised for March.

Shottery - 7th March – AGM & "I'm Deaf not Daft" - Merleen Watson.

Dene Valley -14th March - "Bus Across the Andes". - Nicholas Clark.

Alcester - 7th March – AGM.

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
March 2017	The Choir	June 2017	Film Group
April 2017	Garden Appreciation Group	July 2017	All That Swing & Jazz Group
May 2017	Painting & Drawing Group	August 2017	Am Dram Group

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>GROUP LEADER</u>	<u>USUAL MEETING DAY (MONTHLY)</u>
All That Swing & Jazz	Brian Bradley	4th Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
AmDram & Supper	Geoff Bridgewater	As Announced
Art Appreciation	Sylvia Kentish Pam Collins	3rd Friday 2.00pm
Bridge	John Yeomans	Every Tuesday 2.00pm
Card Making	Carolyn Leach	As Announced
China Discussion Group	Robyn Nicoll	See Newsletter
Chinwags Lunch	Aline Cumming	4th Monday 12.00 noon
Choir	Ruth Grahame Dorothy Jones	Every Friday 10.30—12.00 noon
Classical Music	Aline Cumming	3rd Monday 2.00pm
Creative Crafts	Tricia Callaghan	3rd Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
Computers	Robyn Nicoll	2nd & 4th Wednesday 2.30—4.00pm
Digital Photography	Geoff Bridgewater	As Announced
Dinah's Luncheon	Sylvia Crooks	1st Tuesday for lunch
Discussion	Athena Roderick	2nd Wednesday
Film Group	Mary Fishleigh Mavis Pickett	2nd Tuesday 2.00pm
Games—Scrabble, Dominoes and Cards	Sue Tringham	1st & 3rd Monday 2.00—4.00pm
Garden Appreciation Group	Suzy Genge	2nd Tuesday
Grumpy Old Men	Graham Mitchell	3rd Wednesday for lunch
History	David Dumper	2nd Monday 2.00pm
Keep Fit	Mary Palmer	Every Thursday 10.00am
Painting/Drawing	Dorothy Jones Sue Butler	As Announced
Pilates - Monday	Gill Ganner	Every Monday 12.15—1.15pm
Pilates - Wednesday	Sue Workman	Every Wednesday 10.15—11.15am
Play Reading	Sylvia Crooks	See Newsletter for dates
Poetry Reading	Jennifer Davey	2nd Wednesday 10.00—12.00noon
Reading - Monday	Phyllis Bailey	3rd Monday 2.30—4.30pm
Reading - Wednesday	Dorothy Jones	3rd Wednesday 2.30pm
Reading - Friday	Coral Bradley	As Appropriate
Rock & Roll Music	Coral Bradley	2nd Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
Science, Nature & All Things Technical	Geoff Bridgewater	2nd Friday 2.00—4.00pm
Sunday Lunch	Brian Bradley	As Appropriate
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones	As Appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	As Appropriate
U3A Piano Group	Maragaret Dews	4th Wednesday 10.00—11.00am
Walking	Valerie Redfern	2nd Wednesday 10.00am